



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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DNC CONVENTION: L.A. COUNCIL DROPS PERSHING SQUARE AS PROTEST SITE. DEMOS STILL NERVOUS

Editor's note: Despite the L.A. City Council's wise decision to reverse course and drop Pershing Square as a protest site during the DNC presidential convention in L.A. Aug. 14-17, bet your first born there is still going to be trouble and L.A. may end up with a huge PR "black eye." Here is Calpeek's update & commentary...

...The original idea regarding Pershing Square was pushed by L.A. Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, who is headed to the State Assembly in January. It was one of the dumbest moves ever by the L.A. City Council and those who voted with Goldberg the first time should have to pay a political price at the ballot box next time they face voters. But once the phones started ringing in L.A. City Hall, those who screwed up finally got the message and on July 7th the council voted 12-1 to pull the plug on Pershing Square. The lone opponent was Goldberg, who said the council was "railroaded by fear."...

...Problem is that Goldberg just doesn't get it. There's going to be trouble – not caused by the 50,000 legit protesters who are organized under the umbrella of the D2K Network, but from hard core anarchists who are intent on disrupting the DNC convention and turning L.A. into Chicago of 1968...

...But because some of the legit protesters are already saying they'll gather at Pershing Square regardless of rules, the U.S. Secret Service moved VP Al Gore out of the Biltmore Hotel (across the street from Pershing Square), although the hotel will still be the HQ for many DNC, Gore 2000 and DNCC officials...

...Law enforcement agencies, specifically the DNC Task Force (L.A.P.D., L.A. Co. Sheriff, CHP, U.S. Secret Service and FBI), know that many of the same groups who disrupted the WTO event in Seattle earlier this year will be in both Philadelphia for the GOP convention and in L.A. for the Demo event. On Aug. 14th there will be two protest marches: at 2 p.m. *the March Against the WTO and Cor-*

porate Globalization; followed at 5 p.m. by the *March of Our Lives*. One or both will probably paralyze downtown L.A. traffic. Local tv stations can toss out weather and sports because these marches will provide more action than those stupid high speed pursuits which tv loves to cover...

...In Los Angeles, the police department has cancelled all vacation leaves and LAPD sources say they are "prepared." But the merchants and businesses in downtown L.A. and surrounding Staples Centers have some doubts. They remember what happened when sports hooligans and wannabe gang-bangers when on a rampage after the Lakers won the NBA title...

...What are the businesses doing to prepare? Our sources say many of these businesses have ordered plywood boarding for their windows – just in case. And our sources say the jewelry merchants (right in the heart of downtown) are arming themselves to the teeth!!! Stay tuned...

CALPEEK ON VACATION: MORE R&R JULY 17-23

We're taking our second week of vacation the week of July 17-23, so don't look for the newsletter the week of July 24th. Our next newsletter will be dated July 31st. And Calpeek will be off Aug. 14 – 18 so we can cover the Reform and DNC conventions in Long Beach and L.A...

CAMPAIGN 2000: CAMPAIGN REFORM ONCE AGAIN ON CALIF.'S BALLOT. IS IT THE EVIL SON OF 208??

Editor's note: For what seems like the umpteenth time in recent memory, there will be another attempt to pass a campaign reform measure in Calif. Just this past March California voters rejected Prop. 25. This time around the key sponsor is Demo Senate President John Burton and his vehicle for reform is SB 1223. Here's our update, analysis and commentary...

...Voters will see Burton's "baby" as Prop. 34. That's the number which was just assigned by the CA Secretary of State. No sooner had SB 1223 been signed by Gov. Gray Davis(D) than *campaign reform nincompoops* began blast-

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ing away at Burton's plan. If it's not "their baby," they don't like it. FYI: sources say Davis was kept in the dark about SB 1223 for a long time and therefore when asked if the governor would lend his support, our source said, "It's not our baby." Our guess: it's written in such a way to benefit Davis and eventually he will support Prop. 34...

...Our legislative sources in Sacto say that Prop. 34 is a good, but modest effort which will stand up to court challenges. And the contribution limits are reasonable, given the high costs of campaigns, at least compared to **Prop. 208**, which is now before U.S. District Judge Lawrence Carlton in his Sacto courtroom...

...The best way to compare 34 to 208 is with a side-by-side analysis of what an individual can give:

	Prop. 208	Prop. 34
Legislative races	\$250	\$3,000
Statewide races	\$500	\$5,000
Governor	\$500	\$20,000
Donations to political parties	\$5,000	\$25,000

...Unions and other committees can give up to \$6,000 in legislative races and \$10,000 in Statewide contests. But the big winners in Prop. 34 may be the two major political parties. Combined with soft money, they can now become real powers in Calif. politics. And we should mention that independent expenditures are still permitted under 34...

...In addition to reasonable limits on campaign contributions, Burton's Prop. 34 also requires some slate mail disclosures and also expands online/electronic filing requirements. But the real beauty of Prop. 34 is that it's not very complicated and there's no public funding element – one of the things which sunk Prop. 25 back in March. But there is still no way to stop the Huffingtons or Al Chechi's of this world from putting in as much money as they want. However, Burton's proposal says that candidates can now only repay their personal loans up to \$100,000. In other words, if a candidate loans himself/herself \$200,000, only the first \$100-Gs is repayable. The loan provision could make wealthy candidates think twice about running. There are other elements to the measure, but these are the key ones...

...Question: will millionaire Max Palevsky, who put up \$1 million for Prop. 25, put up another \$1 million to defeat Prop. 34? It's a question Burton will have to deal with. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Calif. Sec. of State Bill Jones has issued numbers to the 8 ballot measures which will face voters on Nov. 7th. In addition, pollster Mervin Field has some new data on three hot initiatives. This polling data was taken June 9-18, among 642 likely voters. Here's our brief update...

◆ ***The Numbers, Please*** – Numbers for the November 7th ballot are as follows:

- Prop. 32 Veteran's Bond Act (Dutra)
- Prop. 33 Legislature: Retirement (Papan)
- Prop. 34 Campaign Reform (Burton)
- Prop. 35 Contracting Out
- Prop. 36 Drug Treatment Diversion Program
- Prop. 37 Fees/Taxes New Definitions
- Prop. 38 School Vouchers
- Prop. 39 55% Local School Bond Vote

◆ ***Prop. 38 – School Vouchers*** – The new field poll shows only 42 are aware of this initiative and of that number, 17% are inclined to support vs. 18% who are inclined to oppose AND 7% are undecided. But when read a summary of the initiative, here's the way Prop. 38 breaks down: 39% YES vs. 39% NO, with 22% undecided...

◆ ***Prop. 39 – Local School Bonds*** – Even though a similar initiative (Prop. 26) appeared on the March primary ballot, only 35% of those questioned say they are aware of this new initiative. The key difference between 26 and 39 is that Prop. 26 required only a simply majority to pass a local school bond. Prop. 39 requires a 55% vote. Of those who say they are aware of Prop. 39, 17% are inclined to support vs. 14% who are inclined to oppose. AND 4% are undecided. After a summary is read, 45% are YES vs. 41% NO, with 14% undecided...

...***X-Files***: Are you superstitious?? Try this: In March supporters of this initiative to do away with the 2/3rds vote were assigned Prop. 26 – that's **Prop. 13 X 2**. Now comes Prop. 39. That's **Prop. 13 X 3**. Coincidence? Omen???

◆ ***Prop. 36 – Drug Rehabilitation*** – This initiative would replace jail/prison time with drug treatment programs for nonviolent 1st or 2nd time drug offenders not charged with sale or manufacturing of drugs. And while awareness of this initiative is only at 19%, 12% are inclined to support vs. only 3% who are inclined to oppose. AND 4% are undecided. But when a summary of the initiative is read, the YES numbers explode upwards: 64% are YES vs. only 20%

NO, with 16% undecided. The NO on 36 side conducted their own polling (by Public Opinion Strategies, June 14-18, among 800 registered voters). After pro & con arguments were given to respondents, it was 61% NO vs. 28% YES, with 13% no opinion. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S LEGAL FILE: ATM LAWS OVERTURNED.

Editor's note: In addition to the ATM case, there are several other legal actions worth noting. Here's a brief update...

◆ *ATM Case* – U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker in S.F. has ruled that laws in both Santa Monica and San Francisco which banned banks from charging *extra fees* to *non-customers* at ATM machines violated federal law. So if you're a Wells Fargo customer and you use a Bank of America ATM machine in S.F. or Santa Monica, you can expect to be hit with a surcharge of about \$1.50 per transaction. Both cities say they will appeal...

◆ *Setencich Convicted* – Former GOP Assembly Speaker Brian Setencich was convicted June 29th of a single count of not reporting nearly \$20,000 on his '96 income tax return. Setencich was acquitted on a similar charge for '97 and was acquitted of corruption charges in another case. Setencich's attorney will file a motion for a new trial or acquittal...

◆ *Assault Weapon Law Upheld* – The Calif. Supreme Court on June 29th upheld the State's 1989 Roberti-Roos assault weapon ban. The vote to uphold the law was 6-1, with Justice Joyce Kennard in opposition. Last year Gov. Davis signed a bill updating the Roberti-Roos law that allows the Calif. DOJ to add 120 copycat weapons to the list. There is a chance that one of the gun manufacturers may appeal this ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court...

◆ *Overturning Primary Results* – The Calif. Republican Party(CRP) has joined legal battles to overturn Calif.'s March GOP primary results in the 61st AD, 67th AD and 72nd AD. Moderate GOP candidates won all three primaries, but didn't get a majority of Republican votes on election day. As Calpeek readers know, the U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that Calif.'s blanket primary was unconstitutional...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

July 31-Aug. 3	RNC Presidential Convention, Philadelphia.
Aug. 10-13	Reform Party Presidential Convention, Long Beach, CA.
Aug. 14-17	DNC Presidential Convention, Los Angeles.
Aug. 31-Sep. 2	Natural Law Presidential Convention, Alexandria, VA.
Sept. 15-17	CRP Convention, Palm Springs, CA.
Nov. 7	Election day.
Nov. 9-12	Internat'l Assn. of Political Consultants annual conference, Washington DC.

BORED? CALPEEK'S SUMMERTIME READING LIST.

Editor's note: At least once a year, sometimes more, we present *Calpeek's Summertime Reading List*. On June 27, Gov. Gray Davis(D) proclaimed the summer of 2000 as "The Summer of Reading in Calif." For what it's worth, here's our list of recommended books...

◆ *Blood Sport* by James Steward. If you hate Hillary, you'll just love this book. All the stuff about Whitewater to the White House travel office mess, it's all there...

◆ *Uncovering Clinton – A Reporter's Story* by Michael Isikoff. This book is fascinating too, if you want to know all about Pres. Bill Clinton's *bimbo eruptions*. It's worth reading and gives pretty good insight into that "vast rightwing conspiracy."...

◆ *A Vast Conspiracy – The Real Story of the Sex Scandal That Nearly Brought Down a President* by Jeffrey Toobin. For liberal conspiracy buffs, this is a must read...

◆ *Angels Flight* by Michael Connelly. Connelly has replaced James Elroy (*L.A. Confidential*) as Calpeek's favorite mystery writer. *Angels Flight* features fearless Hollywood Division homicide detective Harry Bosch. Fast paced and easy reading. So is Connelly's *Blood Works*...

◆ *A Rage for Justice – The Passion & Politics of Phillip Burton* by the late John Jacobs. It should be on your reading list...

◆ *California In the New Millennium* by Mark Baldassare. The new demographics of Calif. politics in the 21st Century is explored by Baldassare...

◆ *Shadow – Five Presidents and the Legacy of Watergate* by Bob Woodward...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on hot U.S. House contests in Calif....

☒ *Field's Generic Poll* – In Calif., Demo congressional incumbents and candidates hold a *wide edge* in voter preferences over their GOP rivals, according to the latest survey by pollster Mervin Field. In *generic match-ups* (who would you vote for if the election were held today) Demos hold a 47% to 35% advantage over the GOP, with 18% of those polled having no opinion. In October of 1999, Demos held a 42% vs. 33% edge over the GOP.

...As part of this same poll, Field also tested the *approval*

ratings for both Demo and GOP House members. Again, Demos hold an advantage: 46% approve vs. 39% disapprove. On the GOP side, it's like this: 32% approve vs. 55% disapprove. In terms of an overall rating for congress, those sampled gave congress a 40% approval rating vs. 48% who disapprove. The poll was taken June 9-18 among 642 likely voters...

☒ **Prescription Drug Coverage** – Did House GOPers make a big mistake with their plan to give incentives to private insurance companies to provide prescription coverage?? The Demo plan, which was rejected on a mostly party-line vote, would have added prescription drug coverage to Medicare. According to a poll sponsored by EMILY's List (and conducted by pollsters Celinda Lake and Geoff Garin – June 26-July 1, 1,524 likely voters), 60% of those surveyed preferred the Demo plan vs. only 32% who liked the GOP-sponsored plan. And according to this survey, 55% of all voters say Medicare will be a very important issue in 2000...

☒ **23rd CD Update** – Demo attorney Michael Case has released results of a poll taken by his campaign (Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin) which shows incumbent U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly(R-Simi Valley) leading --- but with only 37% vs. 15% for Case and a rather large 43% undecided. Another 5% are for other candidates. The poll was taken June 12-14 among 400 likely voters. Stay tuned...

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **CDP "E" Board OKs DTS Voters** – The Calif. Demo Party Executive Board has voted unanimously to permit Decline to State voters to cast ballots in Demo primaries. This action was taken after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Calif.'s blanket primary. While there was some hints that this would be controversial, the "E" Board action passed with the support of Gov. Gray Davis and CDP Chair Art Torres. The E Board also voted to support in principle SB 28 by State Sen. Steve Peace(D-El Cajon) which changes state law to allow DTS voters to vote in party primaries, IF the parties allows it. No official word yet on what the CRP will do, but it's likely they will oppose DTS voters in their primary. And sources say that CRP hardliners will attempt to oust state central committee appointments of any GOP primary winner who did not win with a plurality of Republican votes. This is aimed at moderates Tom Harman(67th AD), Dennis Yates(61st AD) and Lynn Daucher(72nd AD) – all of whom won their primaries with help from DTS voters...

■ **24th SD Special Update** – This special election hasn't even been called and yet the activity to replace State Sen. Hilda Solis(D-El Monte) is running at a fever pitch. Solis is all but assured of winning a seat in the U.S. House and will thus give up her State Senate seat. Assemblymembers Gloria Romero and Martin Gallegos are the two best known candidates running, but there are some others. Romero has just released the results of a poll by GLS Research (April 3-6, 400 registered voters) which shows Romero with a 37% to 23% lead over Gallegos, with a huge 40% undecided...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Former Assemblyman and lobbyist Joe Gonsalves, 80, died July 7 of a blood disorder. The Demo lawmaker served in the legislature from 1962-73 and also was mayor of Cerritos. R.I.P...

● Veteran AP political reporter and former AP Sacto bureau chief Doug Willis retired July 1st after 31 years on the job. His last column (Capitol Notebook) looked back on all those campaigns he covered. A pro who will be missed...

● S.F.-based Solem & Associates, which has been doing opinion research for 20 years, has now formed SA/Opinion Research within the pr/pa firm's overall structure. S&A Exec. VP Jonathan Kaufman will be research director...

● Former Demo Congressman and former San Jose Mayor Norm Mineta has been nominated by Pres. Clinton to replace Bill Daly as Secretary for the DOC...

● George Minter, former p/a director for the So. Calif. Gas Co., has joined L.A.-based Greer/Dailey as a new partner. The firm will now be Greer/Dailey/Minter...

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